

09/763115

02 Rec'd PCT/PTO

16 FEB 2001

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Express Mail No. EF412894718US

Richard John KNIGHT et al.

Filed: Concurrently herewith

PCT/GB99/02691

- filed August 16, 1999

For: COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**Prior to calculation of the fee for the above-identified PCT application, and prior to initial examination, please amend the application as follows:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

1. A communications network for transferring data in accordance with a transfer priority number, the network having a number of switching nodes which transfer data transmitted between end stations coupled to the network, each switching node comprising:
  - a store for storing data prior to transfer;
  - a monitor for monitoring the volume of data being transferred through the switching node;
  - a comparator for comparing the volume of data to a first predetermined threshold; and,
  - a signal generator for generating a congestion signal if the respective volume of traffic exceeds the first predetermined threshold, wherein the adjacent switching nodes and/or end

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